United Nations S/2000/1164

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 December 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 7 December 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 4 December 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Letter dated 4 December 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on Stabilization Force operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (13 October-12 November), there were approximately 23,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations by means of ground and air patrols. Other operations included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces (EAF), conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest.

2. Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina took place peacefully on 11 November. SFOR maintained a safe and secure environment and assisted the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in its supervision of the elections by providing intelligence support, a rapid response capability, an enhanced security environment, limited equipment support, an exchange of liaison officers and 24-hour joint operational centre staffing, both at SFOR and at OSCE.

3. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by providing an intensified presence on the ground. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

4. The situation in theatre remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

5. On 10 October, SFOR supported the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) in inspecting buildings belonging to the local police in Livno, Glamoc, Kupres and Tomislavgrad (Multi-National Division (MND) South West). During the inspections, a number of weapons were confiscated, along with explosives, communications equipment and anti-personnel mines.

6. On 19 October, approximately 800 Bosnian Serb students held a demonstration in Brcko (MND North) and marched on the OSCE building there, demanding segregated schools and increased police protection for Serbs. During the demonstration, stones were thrown at SFOR troops, and around a dozen buildings were vandalized. Fifteen protestors were arrested during the demonstration, which ended in the early afternoon.

7. On 25 October, a weapons cache, consisting of 1,400 cases, each containing 1,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, was discovered near Vlasenica in MND North. The ammunition is thought to have lain there undisturbed since the 1992-1995 war.

8. Over the period, SFOR troops conducted 69 weapons storage site inspections. No violations were reported.

9. SFOR troops monitored 640 training and movement activities: 347 Bosnian Serb; 124 Bosniac; 44 Bosnian Croat; and 125 Federation.

10. To date in 2000, approximately 736,041 square metres of land have been cleared of mines and unexploded ordnance. There are currently 46 EAF de-mining teams in operation.

Cooperation with international organizations

11. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the IPTF, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Office of the High Representative (OHR), OSCE and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

12. SFOR continues to support OHR in its efforts to establish common institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At its 14 October meeting, the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) failed to achieve progress on the establishment of an enhanced SCMM staff. The High Representative has since written to the Entity Authorities to press for early action in this respect. On 26 October, further discussions took place in the Joint Military Committee on the topic of EAF restructuring.

13. SFOR continues to work with UNHCR to facilitate the return of displaced persons and refugees and is heavily involved in the overall planning of returns within the Reconstruction and Returns Task Force. SFOR is also supporting the sustainability of resettlement sites for displaced persons and refugees over the winter period.

Outlook

14. Isolated acts of violence are likely to continue, especially in connection with the return of refugees and displaced persons.